



For Release: Thursday, February 19, 2015

15-247-PHI

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE: Philadelphia, Pa.

Technical information: (215) 597-3282 BLSInfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic

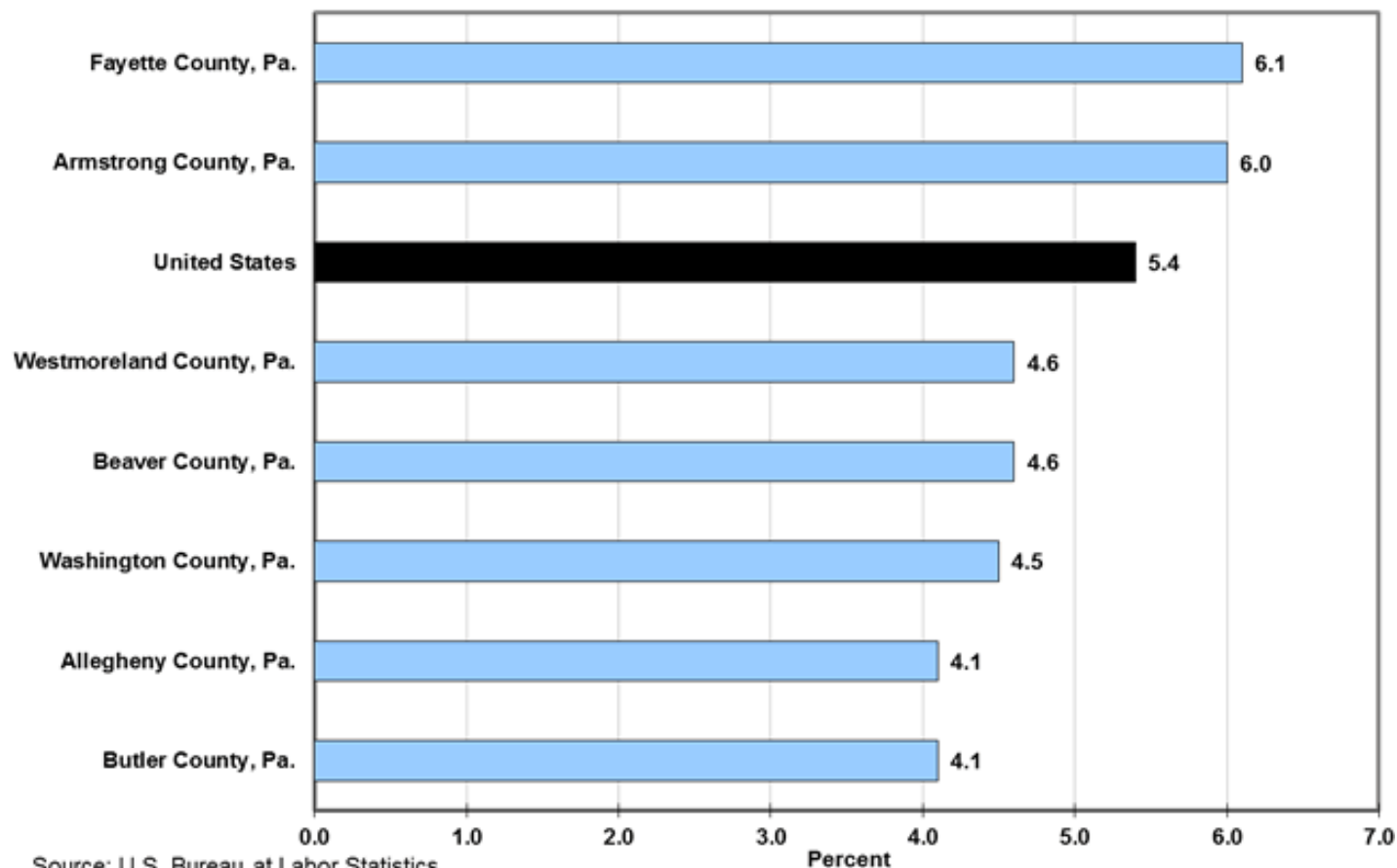
Media contact: (215) 861-5600 BLSMediaPhiladelphia@bls.gov

Unemployment in the Pittsburgh Area by County – December 2014

Unemployment Rates in All Area Counties Declined Over the Year

In December, Allegheny and Butler Counties had the lowest unemployment rates in the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area, 4.1 percent each, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that Fayette County registered the highest unemployment rate at 6.1 percent. Armstrong County had the second-highest rate at 6.0 percent and was the only other county to exceed the 5.4-percent U.S. rate. (See [chart 1](#) and [chart 2](#). The Technical Note at the end of this release contains the metropolitan area definition. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Chart 1. Unemployment rates for the United States and counties in the Pittsburgh, Pa., Metropolitan Statistical Area, December 2014, not seasonally adjusted



In December 2014, over-the-year unemployment rate declines in all seven Pittsburgh-area counties were larger than the nation's 1.1-percentage point decrease. (See [table A.](#)) The largest rate declines were in Beaver (-1.9 percentage points) and Fayette (-1.8 points). The remaining five counties in the area had over-the-year rate declines ranging from 1.4 to 1.2 percentage points.

Table A. Unemployment rates for the United States, the Pittsburgh, Pa., Metropolitan Statistical Area, and its components, not seasonally adjusted

| Area | Unemployment rate | | | Change from | |
|--|-------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Dec 2012 | Dec 2013 | Dec 2014 ⁽¹⁾ | Dec 2012 to Dec 2014 ⁽¹⁾ | Dec 2013 to Dec 2014 ⁽¹⁾ |
| United States..... | 7.6 | 6.5 | 5.4 | -2.2 | -1.1 |
| Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area..... | 7.1 | 5.7 | 4.4 | -2.7 | -1.3 |
| Allegheny County, Pa. | 6.6 | 5.3 | 4.1 | -2.5 | -1.2 |
| Armstrong County, Pa. | 8.9 | 7.4 | 6.0 | -2.9 | -1.4 |
| Beaver County, Pa. | 7.3 | 6.5 | 4.6 | -2.7 | -1.9 |
| Butler County, Pa..... | 6.5 | 5.3 | 4.1 | -2.4 | -1.2 |
| Fayette County, Pa..... | 9.7 | 7.9 | 6.1 | -3.6 | -1.8 |
| Washington County, Pa..... | 7.1 | 5.9 | 4.5 | -2.6 | -1.4 |
| Westmoreland County, Pa..... | 7.4 | 5.9 | 4.6 | -2.8 | -1.3 |

Footnotes:

(1) Data for the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area and its components are preliminary for the most recent month.

From December 2012 to December 2014, all seven Pittsburgh-area counties had larger unemployment rate declines than the nation's 2.2-percentage points decrease. Fayette County had the largest rate decrease of 3.6 percentage points, followed by Armstrong (-2.9 points) and Westmoreland (-2.8 points). Butler County had the smallest unemployment rate decline from December 2012 to December 2014, down 2.4 percentage points.

The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release for January is scheduled to be released on Friday, March 20, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (EDT).

Technical Note

This release presents unemployment rate data for states and counties from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, a federal-state cooperative endeavor.

Definitions. The labor force and unemployment data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The LAUS program measures employment and unemployment on a place-of-residence basis. The universe for each is the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over. Employed persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who had a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. Unemployed persons are those who were not employed during the reference week (based on the definition above), had actively looked for a job sometime in the 4-week period ending with the reference week, and were currently available for work; persons on layoff expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The labor force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

Methods of Estimation. The LAUS program is a hierarchy of non-survey methodologies for indirectly estimating employment and unemployment in states and local areas. Statewide data are produced through a modeling technique that uses estimates of payroll jobs from the Current Employment Statistics survey and unemployment insurance claims counts from the state workforce agencies to mitigate volatility in the direct CPS tabulations of employment and unemployment, respectively. Data for labor market areas, such as metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions, are produced through a building block approach and adjusted proportionally to state model-based totals. Data for counties within labor market areas are produced through a disaggregation technique. A detailed description of the LAUS estimation procedures is available in chapter 4 of the BLS Handbook of Methods at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch4.htm.

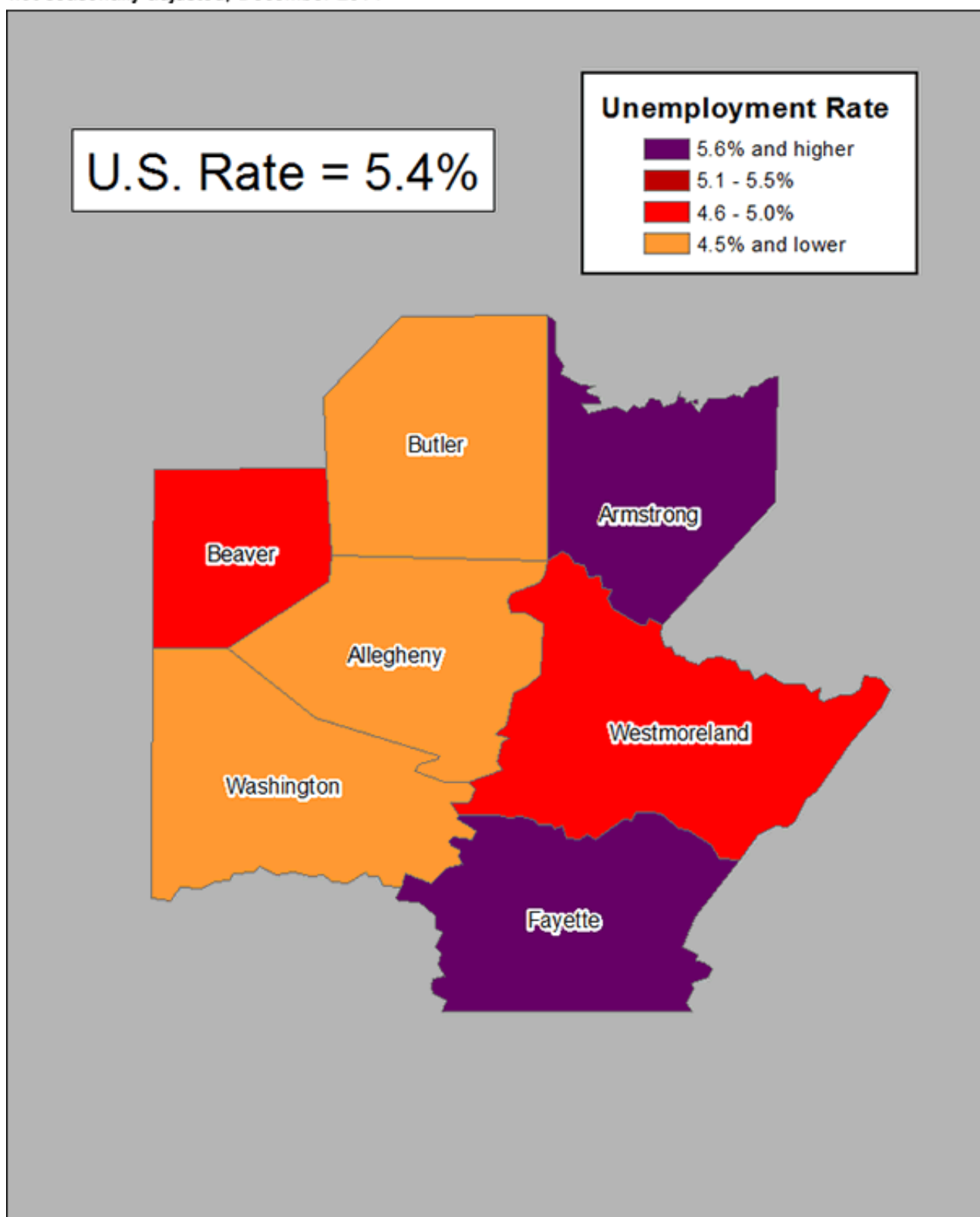
Annual revisions. Labor force and unemployment data for prior years reflect adjustments made at the end of each year. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau, any revisions in the other data sources, and model reestimation. All substate estimates are reestimated and adjusted to add to the revised model-based estimates for states.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated December 1, 2009. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

The **Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties in Pennsylvania.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Chart 2. Unemployment rates for counties in the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area, not seasonally adjusted, December 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.